



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #20 May 2016

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,

We had a fruitful reunion weekend in Bangkok crowded with joy, knowledge, and ... brethren! I am most grateful to the Organizing team who made the ultimate possible arrangement out of all constraints to accommodate the big attendance. There is certainly room for improvement, and I appreciate everyone's understanding as we grow bigger and better.

Congratulations to our three new Inspectors General Honorary, nine Knight Commanders Court of Honor, and the 40 members of Class of Suriwong 2016. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the proficient ritual teams, the conferrals are both entertaining and informative than ever. It is really exciting that several teams have agreed to attend the Fall Reunion in Taipei in September to perform certain rituals. Let us all meet again in Taipei for another memorable reunion!

For those eager to go deeper in the degrees, I remind you again the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Program of the Supreme Council. Although we may never reach perfection, I am confident that the more we study and practice, the more rewarding the result will be. We grow old the moment we stop learning - may we all stay young .

Happy summer!

Fraternally yours,
Dennis Liao, 33°
Venerable Master

2016 Spring Reunion in Bangkok

A brief summary in 3 pictures and 3 figures:



Three new Inspectors General Honorary



Nine new Commanders Court of Honor



The forty brethren of Class Suriwong 2016

The Spring Reunion took place in Bangkok from April 29 to May 1st. It gathered over 100 brethren from 11 countries in the beautiful premises of the British Club.

We started on the 29 with the ceremony of coronation of three Inspector General Honorary (the white hats) just followed by the welcome party.

On the 30th, we proceeded early with the investiture of nine Knight Commanders court of Honor, just before the Conferral of the degrees.

The ritual teams uniting brethren from various origins, performed very professionally and 7 degrees were performed in long form 4th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 27th, 30th and 32nd, one more than last year.

Master Craftsman Program

With the initiation of 40 new members, it seems useful to remind the necessity to continue working on the lessons of the Scottish Rite.

The Master Craftsman Program is an exciting new by-mail correspondence course based upon quizzes and essays, designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC under the guidance

and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33 of the A. and A. Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction.

The Program includes 3 steps:

- Scottish Rite History and Ritual, based upon the degrees performed and explained in A Bridge to Light,
- Symbolic Lodge, Based upon Esoterika, a work of Albert Pike
- Scottish Rite philosophy, based upon the major work of Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma.

The Program can be subscribed individually on the website of Supreme Council.

It is suggested to work in group for 2 main reasons: it is more fun, and it is cheaper as one book is enough by group (for Taiwan, shipment of the book almost doubles the cost of the program).

For more information, go to Supreme Council website, Store,

The Eleventh Degree: Elu of the Twelve

“Liberty – Equality - Fraternity”

Continuing the tale of the Ninth and Tenth degrees, which have shown the capture of the three assassins of Hiram. The Eleventh dramatizes the trials and fates of the two last assassins. We are particularly reminded that revenge is ultimately met out by the hand of God, though we must pursue evil to its deepest recesses in our efforts to defeat it.

We are taught to deal fairly with all men and see that none are subjected to extortion or the unjust imposition of burdens. Neither fear nor fault of your own may permit harm to fall upon your country or its people.

The value of trial by jury is extolled, without which liberty, and immunity from wrong and oppression cannot be guaranteed. We are shown herein how an Independent Judiciary is the third leg upon which a stable and just government stands.

King Solomon ordered Zabud to conduct a fair trial on Jubela and Jubelo after their capture. Zabud invited Elu of the Fifteen to participate in the hearing and jointly make the verdict. Not sooner after the demands of justice were satisfied, King Solomon had to deal with the problem of corruption in his kingdom. At the suggestion of Adoniram, he appointed twelve governors out of Elu of the Fifteen, with the title of Princes Ameth, or Princes Truth, to be in charge of collecting the revenues of the twelve provinces (tribes) of Israel. Twelve were selected by drawing lots and were conferred with the degree of Elu of the Twelve. The other three were dismissed with honor and reward.

According to Albert Pike, The 9th and 10th degrees symbolize an independent legislature, an indispensable feature of a free government. The nine Elus represent the upper house; they are fewer in number, more mature in wisdom and elected for longer terms than those of the lower house, symbolized by the Elu of the Fifteen. The Elu of the Twelve should remind us of another institution necessary for true liberty – the trial by a jury of twelve men whose unanimous verdict is necessary to convict someone of a crime.

Administration

The Supreme Council has implemented since 2013 the Online Payment procedure. This procedure is very convenient and inexpensive. However, in 2015, 65 brothers only have used it, which represents 25% of the Overseas Brothers, who should be its main users.

Many seem to be discouraged by the system, which is rather picky, but those who contacted us for assistance have finally achieved their registration.

In order to improve the system, it would be useful to know from the brothers who did not use which particular reasons discourage them. Of course several brethren wait the Spring or Fall Reunions to pay in cash, but still many dues remain unpaid (38 %)

Your opinion is welcome.

Fall Reunion

The Fall Reunion will take place in Taipei on two full days, Friday September 23rd and Saturday September 24th at the China Masonic Temple, No 10, Lane 201, Chang An East Road Section 2.

A welcome party will take place on Thursday 22nd evening and the closing banquet will be on the Saturday 24th evening.

Our hotel partner for this event is the Sunworld Dynasty,
www.sunworlddynasty.com.tw
No. 100 Dun Hua North Road, Taipei 10547, Taiwan
E-mail: bc@sunworlddynasty.com.tw

Practical information will be provided soon.

If you have new candidates to propose, please contact us for application.

Contribute to our letter

Contribute to the life of our Valley, send your contribution to
taipei.bodies@gmail.com

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